

A Year in the Life of a Michigan Black Bear

A Program for 6th, 7th and 8th grade Michigan Educators

Are you looking
for a fun way to integrate
Michigan's unique flora and fauna
into your curriculum, while still meeting the
educational standards required?

You and your class have an opportunity to begin an adventure that will allow you to experience *A Year in the Life of a Michigan Black Bear*!

Throughout the school year students will learn about the life cycle of the Michigan black bear, general black bear biology and behavior as well as how the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) manages and maintains a healthy black bear population.

The lessons and activities are divided into months, but are flexible to fit into any schedule. Each month will have associated activities and/or video lessons. An Educator Guide is provided to each participating educator and will provide suggested instructional methods along with additional tips and information. We hope to provide a link with current educational standards to Michigan's black bear through this new learning opportunity.

Over the school year your class will also get to "follow" a Michigan black bear by using actual data points from a radio collared Michigan black bear. Your class will get to follow the bear through its seasonal movements to see what it is like in *A Year in the Life of a Michigan Black Bear*!

To sign up, please visit www.michigan.gov/wildlife and click on the "Education" button. Applications are due August 1 in order to receive the materials for the upcoming school year.

This program is free of charge and open to all interested 6th, 7th and 8th grade educators in Michigan!



www.michigan.gov/wildlife



Facility Requirements:

Educators will need to have access to a computer lab and the Internet for the students to be able to use the mapping application to follow the bear. Educators will also need to be able to access the Internet (YouTube) in their classrooms. Having a projector is advised to make it easier for all students to see the video lessons.

Year in the Life of a Bear Contest

Once your classroom participates in *A Year in the Life of a Michigan Black Bear* program, it will be eligible to participate in the Year in the Life of a Bear Contest.

Classes will use what they have learned about bears to interpret or tell the story of a year in the life of a Michigan black bear. Classes can retell the actual journey of the bear they followed or get creative and use the information they've learned over the year to interpret a typical bear's activities throughout a year.

Classes are encouraged to be creative in sharing a bear's journey throughout the year in a short video, PowerPoint or Prezi format presentation. Judging criteria will include biological accuracy in any information shared about black bears, effectiveness and effort of the presentation, and originality and creativity the class uses to present the bear's story. Presentations should be about 3 to 5 minutes in length. Presentations over 7 minutes will not be accepted.

The contest winners will be awarded prizes* for their classroom! Prizes are provided by the Michigan Bear Hunters Association (MBHA) and the Michigan DNR.

The top 3 presentations will be featured on the DNR website and the class will be awarded a certificate of recognition!

The **1st place classroom** will also be featured in a DNR Showcasing story or press release about their efforts and will be awarded a **\$1,000 gift card** for science classroom supplies.

The **2nd place** will be awarded a \$500 gift card for science classroom supplies.

The **3rd place classroom** will be awarded a \$250 gift card for science classroom supplies.

*limited to one prize per school
Presentations are due by April 10th of the school year your class is participating in.